

## Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07  
NSAE-00 DODE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 /037 W  
-----311407Z 004911 /43

O R 311325Z MAY 77  
FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA  
TO SECSTATE IMMEDIATE 0801  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 0018  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
CINCUSNAVEUR  
COMSIXTHFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALEXANDRIA 0420

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MILI, EG  
SUBJECT: MILITARY CALL-UP OF SHIPYARD TECHNICIANS

REF: ALEXANDRIA 0412 (NOTAL)

1. ON INVITATION EXTENDED SIX DAYS EARLIER, CONSUL GENERAL AND DPO MADE VISIT TO ALEXANDRIA SHIPYARD ON MORNING OF 31 MAY 1977. AFTER EXECUTIVE OFFICE BRIEFING, AS WE ENTERED WORK PREMISES, DPO CASUALLY ASKED ABOUT NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES. OUT HOST, NEW APPOINTED DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SHIPYARD, RETIRED ARMY GENERAL (AND DOCTOR OF SCIENCE) HASSAN EL SAYED, SAID IT WAS CURRENTLY ABOUT 6500 BUT SHOULD BE 10,000. FYI-HE HAS BEEN ON JOB TWO MONTHS-END FYI.

2. HE EXPLAINED THAT 2,500 OF HIS SKILLED WORKMEN HAD BEEN CALLED TO MILITARY SERVICE. DISCREET QUESTIONING AND ISOLATED INFORMATION GATHERED DURING NEXT HOUR OF TOUR INDICATED:

A. CALL-UP WAS "CUMULATIVE" AFTER FIVE YEARS OF APPARENT  
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EXEMPTION FOR THESE LOCAL TECHNICIANS.

B. WORK WAS ALMOST AT STANDSTILL IN YARDS AS MANAGEMENT SOUGHT RATIONALIZE USE OF SMALLER WORKFORCE. FYI-EL SAYED NOTED THAT ALL CALLED UP WERE "JUNIOR", AND OLDER STAFF WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY SHOULDERING WORK LOAD, HOURS AND STRAIN OF DEPARTEES. END FYI.

C. EL SAYED HAD LEARNED ONLY INFORMALLY TODAY THAT AS MANY AS ONE-QUARTER OF CALL-UP WOULD REMAIN AT DOCKYARD, BUT AS NAVY TECHNICIANS. ROUGHLY ANOTHER QUARTER EACH WOULD GO TO SUEZ AND PORT SAID, THE FINAL QUARTER INTO DEFENSE MINISTRY AND BASE JOBS.

3. COMMENT: FROM ABOVE INFORMATION, FROM EL SAYED'S EXPRESSED APOLOGY OUR VISIT SHOULD HAVE BEEN WHEN YARD STAFF SO DISRUPTED AND FROM HIS STATEMENT THAT STAFF REASSIGNMENTS WILL PERMIT FULLER OPERATIONS BY JUNE 1, WE GET DISTINCT IMPRESSION CALL-UP CAME UNEXPECTEDLY AFTER MAY 25.

4. DISCUSSING THIS WITH BRITISH CONSUL GENERAL AT LUNCH TODAY, HE INFORMED ME THAT ON FRIDAY NIGHT 27 MAY, HE WAS HALTED AT ROAD BLOCK SOUTH OF LAKE MARYOUT OPPOSITE NATIONAL OIL REFINERY, AND TOLD DESERT ROAD TO CAIRO (FIVE MILES AHEAD) WAS CLOSED AND HE COULD NOT PROCEED. WHEN HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO AGAMI (BEACH RESORT FIVE MILES WEST OF ALEXANDRIA, WITH TURNOFF JUST SHORT OF DESERT ROAD AT AL AMRYIA) HE WAS ALLOWED TO PASS. STOPPING AT FURTHER CHECKPOINT NEAR AGAMI TURNOFF, HE ASKED WHY DESERT ROAD WAS CLOSED. HE WAS TOLD THAT ARMY WAS USING IT. ASKING IF IT WOULD BE OPEN NEXT DAY, HE WAS TOLD IT WOULD STILL BE CLOSED. FYI-BRITISH NAVAL ATTACHE CAME TO ALEXANDRIA FROM CAIRO NEXT DAY (SATURDAY). WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER HE CAME DESERT ROAD OR AGRICULTURAL ROAD-END FYI.

5. CALL-UP OF THESE TECHNICIANS, TO MOVE INTO JOBS EGYPTIAN MILITARY SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN FILLING ALREADY, MIGHT BE TO ALLOW "BASE" TECHNICIANS OF MILITARY FREE TO MOVE INTO CLOSE SUPPORT OF  
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COMBAT UNITS. EMBASSY CAIRO AND DAO MAY BE ABLE COMMENT ON SIGNIFICANCE OR INSIGNIFICANCE OF THESE RECENT EVENTS.

6. FURTHER INFO AND IMPRESSIONS ON OTHER ASPECTS OF VISIT TO SHIPYARD FOLLOWS.  
CHASE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CONSCRIPTION, MILITARY BUILDUP, SHIPYARDS, LABOR FORCE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 31-May-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** MILI, EWWT, EG  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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